

In the Claims

BH 1. (Currently Amended) A ~~wireless device~~ cell phone including a data capture system and a radiant-energy digital data transmission system, characterized in that the ~~device~~ cell phone further includes a steganographic encoder that hides a plural-bit auxiliary code within data captured by the data capture system prior to its transmission by the data transmission system.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ cell phone of claim 1 in which the data capture system captures audio and includes a microphone.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ cell phone of claim 1 in which the steganographic encoder operates transparently to a user of the ~~device~~ cell phone, wherein substantially all of the data transmitted by the ~~device~~ cell phone is steganographically encoded.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a ~~wireless device~~ cell phone, comprising:
receiving input information;
steganographically encoding the input information to hide a plural-bit auxiliary code therein; and
transmitting the steganographically-encoded information by wireless in a digital format.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 which includes:
receiving the input information in non-digital form;
expressing the received information in digital form; and
encoding the digital form of the input information.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 in which the input information is audio information.